

oriented east-west, as were temperature anomalies (fig. 10b), in the pattern characteristic of the month. This was the fourth consecutive week with below normal temperatures over the central and southern Great Plains, where several new low temperature records were established for March.

Additional precipitation this week (fig. 10c) contributed to the record-breaking California totals mentioned earlier, as well as to other record accumulations at Albuquerque, N. Mex. and Atlantic City, N. J. From 1 to 2 inches fell over most of a large area southward from a line between southern Virginia and southern Indiana, as the final Gulf storm of the month moved up the east coast. Precipitation remained light along the northern border and over the northern Plains States for the fourth consecutive week. This is an indication of the stability and extent of the great anticyclone over eastern Canada.

In summary, the largest single feature of the circulation this month was the blocking High over Hudson Bay. High pressure persisted in this area during each week of the

month, and the associated monthly mean DN at 700 mb. was the largest ever observed over North America during March. This Hudson Bay High contributed strongly to low 700-mb. temperate westerly index over the Western Hemisphere and had an even greater influence on United States weather.

REFERENCES

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Notice

AVAILABILITY OF 5-DAY MEAN 700-MB. CHARTS FOR A 10-YEAR PERIOD

The U. S. Weather Bureau announces the availability on microfilm of the results of an extensive historical map project carried out in its Extended Forecast Section. These are 5-day mean 700-mb. charts which have been constructed twice a week for the 10-year period from June 1945 to May 1955 on maps covering most of the Northern Hemisphere north of 15° N. latitude. Superimposed on the contours are broken lines showing the departures from monthly normal of the 700-mb. height, where the normal was obtained from the series of charts published by the Weather Bureau in 1952.¹ Individual values of departure from normal are plotted at intersections of latitude and longitude. Owing to lack of space only dots, instead of

actual values, are indicated on figure 1, (p. 108) a sample chart which is somewhat less clear than microprints made from the microfilm.

The basic data for these charts were read at these grid points from contours on hemisphere twice-daily synoptic charts at the 700-mb. level. Contours were drawn at 200-foot intervals and departures from normal at 100-foot intervals. In addition, trough lines, centers of high and low height, and centers of high and low departure are indicated on the maps.

The area covered by these charts is less than a full hemisphere for the period from 1945 to 1948, the omitted area being mainly Asia and the western Pacific.

The series contains a total of 1,040 maps. The complete set may be obtained on microfilm (2 reels, MF 2026 A and B) for approximately \$8 by writing to the U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington 25, D. C.

¹ U. S. Weather Bureau, "Normal Weather Charts for the Northern Hemisphere," *Technical Paper* No. 21, Oct. 1952, 74 pp.

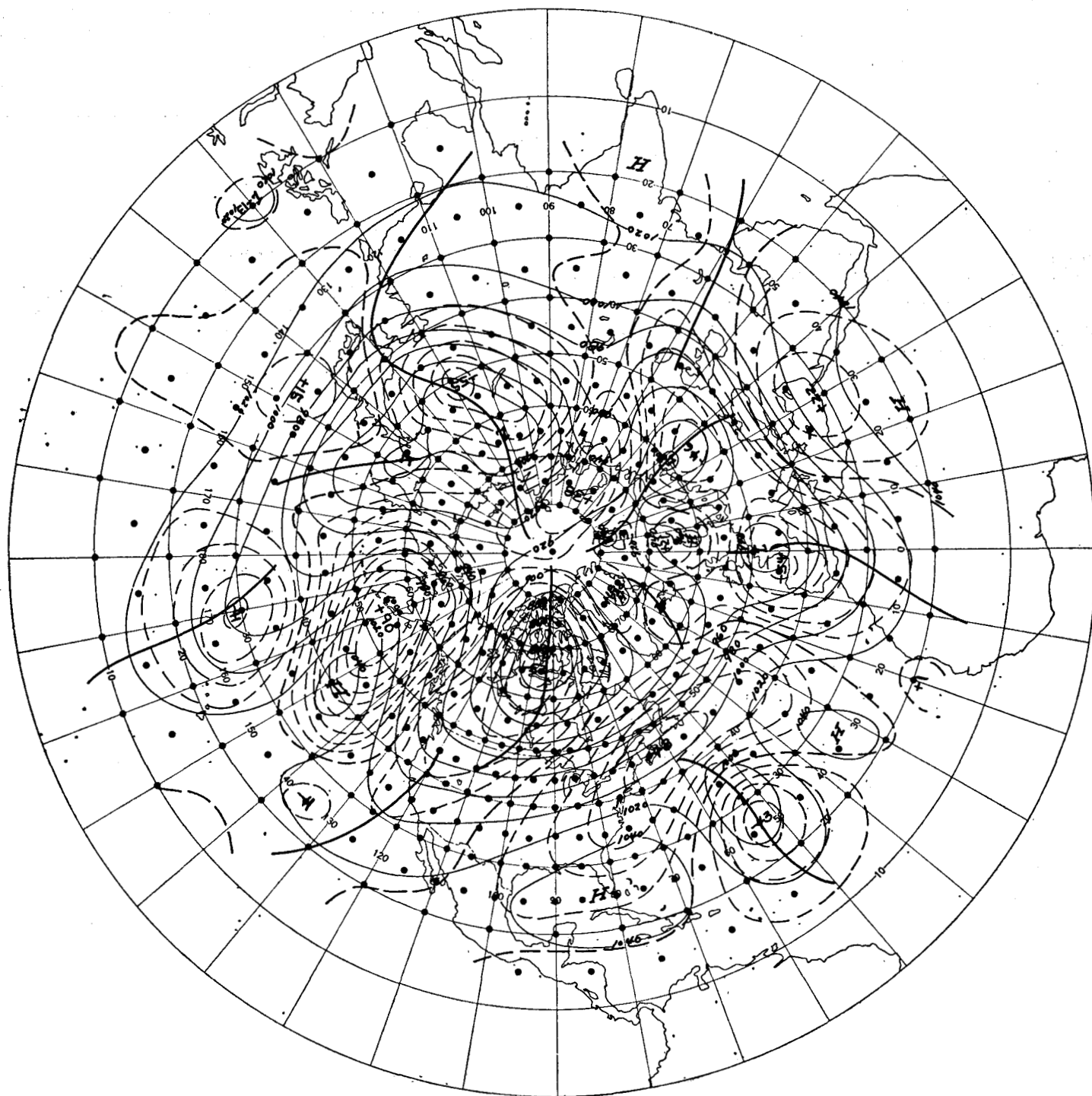


FIGURE 1.—5-day mean 700-mb. contours (solid) for 200-foot intervals and isopleths of departure from normal (broken) for 100-foot intervals for the period Feb. 23-27, 1955. Heavy solid lines indicate troughs as defined by the lowest latitudes reached by contours. Large dots show latitude-longitude intersections at which height departures from normal are plotted.